

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SR-02 ORM-01 SCA-01 VO-03 AID-20 IO-10 IGA-01 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /097 W
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O 030737Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8467

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5928

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, VS, IN

SUBJ: SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONSULATE GENERAL STAFF ASYLUM REQUEST

REFS: A. NEW DELHI 5924

B. NEW DELHI 5816

SUMMARY: THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONSUL GENERAL REPORTS THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARE BRINGING PRESSURE ON HIS STAFF MEMBERS WHO ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR THEIR SECURITY. THE EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING THE VIETNAMESE REQUEST FOR ASYLUM AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. PLEASE PROVIDE ACCOUNTING DATA TO ENABLE THE EMBASSY TO PURCHASE ECONOMY CLASS FARES FROM NEW DELHI TO THE U.S. LIMITATIONS OF TIME AND PROBABLE GOI BLOCKING OF VIETNAMESE ACCOUNTS WILL PREVENT US FROM USING THE PROCEDURES OF STATE 102400. THE FIVE DAYS THE GOI HAS GIVEN THE VIETNAMESE TO LEAVE EXPIRES ON MANDAY MAY 5. END SUMMARY.

1. SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONSUL GENERAL, VU VAN HIEU CALLED ON THE DCM MAY 3 TO INQUIRE WHETHER THE EMBASSY HAD YET RECEIVED A RESPONSE TO ITS TWO REQUESTS TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING A REQUEST FOR ASYLUM FOR THE STAFF
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OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE CONSUL GENERAL IN NEW DELHI. THE

DCM REPLIED THAT THE EMBASSY STILL HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS. SHOWING CONSIDERABLE NERVOUSNESS, HIEU REPORTED THAT SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED VISITS FROM OFFICERS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY WHO HAD TRIED TO PERSUADE HIEU'S STAFF TO TRANSFER ITS LOYALTIES TO THE PRG. FEARING COERCION, ONE OF THE STAFF MEMBERS HAS ALREADY ABANDONED HIS RESIDENCE. HIEU EXPRESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN ABOUT THE STATUS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE IN THE EVENT THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO LEAVE INDIA AT THE END OF THE FIVE DAYS THEY HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE GOI (HIEU CONSIDERS THIS TO BE MIDNIGHT MONDAY, MAY 5.) HE ASKED IF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COULD MOVE INTO THE U.S. EMBASSY COMPOUND.

2. HIEU ALSO REPEATED HIS REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO DRAW ON THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S ACCOUNT FROM THE NEW YORK BRANCH OF THE BANK IN TOKYO TO PURCHASE AIRLINE TICKETS. HE DOUBTED, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOI WOULD PERMIT HIM TO NEGOTIATE A DOLLAR CHECK SINCE HE PRESUMES THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S ACCOUNT HAS BEEN BLOCKED. CONSEQUENTLY, HE PROPOSES TO PRESENT THE EMBASSY WITH A CHECK FOR THE AMOUNT AND USE EMBASSY FUNDS TO PURCHASE THE TICKETS.

3. HIEU SAID THAT WHILE MEMBERS OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL STAFF WANT U.S. VISAS, SOME OF THEM WERE SEEKING PERMISSION TO TRANSIT EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHERE THEY HAVE RELATIVES TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF SETTLING WITH THEM. HE HOPED THAT THE VISAS THE U.S. ISSUES WOULD PERMIT THIS.

4. THE DCM SUGGESTED THAT HIEU SEEK POLICE PROTECTION FROM THE GOI IF HE FEARED COERCION. HE ASSURED HIEU THAT HE WOULD HAVE INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION OF THE FIVE DAY PERIOD AND, IF NECESSARY, SPEAK TO THE GOI ABOUT AN EXTENSION OF THAT PERIOD. HE TOLD HIEU THAT IT DID NOT SEEM NECESSARY TO CONSIDER PLANNING FOR ADDITIONAL SECURITY CONTINGENCIES (A MOVE ON TO THE EMBASSY COMPOUND) AT THAT TIME.

5. THE EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS SO THAT WE MAY DEAL WITH HIEU'S PROBLEMS PRIOR TO COB MONDAY, MAY 5.

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